Setting the Data Source in ArcMap When the Data Path Has Changed

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There have been many questions concerning the **"red exclamation point"** that appears in a map document when the document has lost connection to the original data path in which it was created from. Users must understand that ArcMap map documents are very path oriented. This means that the document is saved with the location of each layer in its memory. When there has been a change in the "location" of that layer, ArcMap cannot find it and a red exclamation point (**!**) appears by the layer name. The path of a layer can be "lost" in many ways. The following are examples of **how** documents lose that path connection and **what** to do to fix it:

1. **User works multiple counties and forgets to use the F:\drive remap button when working on customer that is NOT in their home county:**
   - The F:\drive remap button must be used **BEFORE** you open a customer's map document.
   - If the F:\drive remap button is *NOT* used before you open the map document, you will have red exclamation points (**!**) beside every file that originated off the server (i.e. soils, doqqs, clu, etc.) For example, if a .mxd was created with data on Allendale's server and user in Hampton tries to open it, the .mxd is looking back to Allendale's server and cannot find the layers (**!**) because the user is logged into Hampton's server.
   - To fix this, close the map document, use the F:\drive remap button and then re-open the customer's map document. The red exclamation points should be gone now.

2. **The customer's map was created (originally in SP2 or earlier) by user A in the office and then was later opened (with SP3) by user B in the office:**
   - The new SP3 of Toolkit changed the location of the customer file from *C:\Customer Files Toolkit to C:\Documents and Settings\user.name\My Customer Files Toolkit.* **(NOTE: See your "What's New in Toolkit SP3" document for further explanation).**
   - It is because of this new path that is user specific that you will get red exclamation points (**!**) when you open a customer's map in ArcMap that you did not originally create. If the map was created by John

Doe and then Jane Doe tried to open it, she would get (**!**) on all files that were saved somewhere in the Customer's File (i.e NOT files from the server or those connected with Cyberfarmer).

- The types of files that will have this problem will be *Build Your Own* layers. These files are typically saved in the customer's Resource Maps folder.
- Files that originated from the server should be fine, because the server path has not changed (unless you are dealing with the first example above).
- *Practice* layers, *Resource Inventory* layers and *Planned Land Unit* layers (Consplan) should be fine because those come into the map when the user hits Cyberfarmer ( )to bring them in from the personal geodatabase.
- If you get the (**!**) by any *Build Your Own* layer, you will simply need to reset the Data Source. To do that you will:
    1. **Right click** on the Layer Name that has the (**!**)
    2. Go to **Properties**
    3. Click on the **Source Tab**
    4. Click on **Set Data Source** button
    5. Browse to *C:\Documents and Settings\user.name\My Customer Files Toolkit\Customer Folder Name\Resource Maps* and then select the file that you are looking for. **(NOTE: If the file was not originally saved inside the customer's Resource Maps folder then you'll have to browse through some of the other folders to find the file you are looking for (i.e. the ArcGIS Projects folder or the Plan Maps/Plan folder).**